

REMARKS

The final Office Action of November 14, 2002, the Advisory Action dated May 16, 2003, and the content of recent telephone conversations with the Examiner have been given careful consideration by the Applicants. In view thereof, reconsideration of the application, as amended, is hereby respectfully requested. Claims 1-9, 16, 17 and 20 have been canceled. Claims 10-15 and 18-19 have been amended.

Summary of Telephone Interview

On October 7, 2003, the undersigned attorney and the Examiner conducted a telephone interview in connection with the above-referenced U.S. patent application. At least one previous phone conversation outlining the topics to be discussed and other scheduling matters was also had.

In the interview, the Examiner indicated that the application contained allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that claim 19, if placed in independent form, would be allowable. The Examiner also indicated that claim 16, including limitations of any of claims 11 through 14, would be allowable. In addition, the Examiner indicated that a combination of claims 10 and 17 would be allowable. However, it is respectfully submitted that, since claim 17 is a method claim, the more appropriate claim for combination with claim 10 is claim 16 – a system claim.

Other procedural issues were discussed with the Examiner. This Amendment is presented in response to the suggestions of the Examiner.

The Remaining Claims are in Condition for Allowance

As noted above, the Examiner indicated that certain subject matter contained in the present application is allowable. As such, claim 19 has been placed in independent form. Therefore, claim 19 is now in condition for allowance.

Moreover, claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 16. Therefore, this claim is now in condition for allowance. Claims 11-15 have been amended to depend from amended claim 10; therefore, these claims are likewise in condition for allowance.

Further Telephone Interview


If the Examiner would like to discuss any of the proposed amendments, the undersigned would welcome the opportunity to do so to expedite further prosecution on this matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the application is now in condition for allowance.
Early notification of such allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this ***Amendment After Final Under Rule 1.116*** in connection with ***Application Serial No. 09/392,844*** is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (facsimile no. 703-872-8315) on October 9,

2003.


Caroline A. Schweter

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